NRC INSPECTION MANUAL

PART 9900: TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

STS479.TG

STANDARD TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
SECTION 4.7.9
SURVEILLANCE OF SNUBBER PISTON SETTINGS

A. PURPOSE

To provide guidance to the inspector regarding interpretation of the Standard Technical Specification Section 4.7.9 regarding surveillance of snubber piston settings.

B. DISCUSSION

The revised standard technical specifications, currently being implemented by NRR, do not contain specific criteria for surveillance of snubber piston settings. The following information provides guidance as to when snubber piston settings should be determined.

1. During preoperational testing, the licensee should record the hot and cold positions of the snubber pistons. These positions should be verified against the design figure to assure that the stroke will accommodate the required thermal movement of the supported component in the system. This requirement applies to both hydraulic and mechanical snubbers.

2. For in-service surveillance requirements, the piston positions of hydraulic snubbers need not be further verified because the dominating hydraulic snubber failure mode is passive (i.e., the pistons do not become frozen).

3. For in-service surveillance requirements, the piston positions of small mechanical snubbers need not be verified if a hand-on visual inspection (called VT-4 Visual Inspection by ASME B&PV Code Section XI) can determine that the piston is free to move through the full range.

4. For in-service surveillance requirements, when a mechanical snubber is too large to have its movability determined by hand-on visual inspection, the piston position should be checked at different plant conditions (e.g. different temperatures) to verify that the piston is free to move.

C. REFERENCE

G. C. Lainas memorandum to E. L. Jordan dated March 2, 1981.

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